

--Fig. 3 is a partial sectional view of a thermal barrier coating system of the turbine blade of Fig. 2, the section is labeled III; and--

In the Claims:

Claim 1 (amended). A method of cleaning a surface of an article having a metallic base body, the method which comprises:

generating a plasma with electrically positively charged ions, accelerating the ions towards the article, and bringing ions into contact with the base body for cleaning the base body;

directing an electron beam onto the base body; and

controlling an outgoing flow of electrons coming into contact with the base body by connecting the base body to a reference potential via a switch at a given switching frequency.

Claim 4 (amended). A method of cleaning a surface of an article having a metallic base body, the method which comprises:

generating a plasma with electrically positively charged ions, accelerating the ions towards the article, and bringing ions into contact with the base body for cleaning the base body;

directing an electron beam onto the base body;

controlling an outgoing flow of electrons coming into contact with the base body by connecting the base body to a reference potential via a switch at a given switching frequency by adjusting the switching frequency in a range from a few Hz to a few MHz.

Claim 5 (amended). A method of cleaning a surface of an article having a metallic base body, the method which comprises:

generating a plasma with electrically positively charged ions, accelerating the ions towards the article, and bringing ions into contact with the base body for cleaning the base body;

directing an electron beam onto the base body; and

controlling an outgoing flux of electrons by adjusting the switching frequency to substantially 50 kHz.

Claim 6 (amended). The method according to claim 1, which comprises controlling an outgoing flux of electrons coming into contact with the base body by connecting the base body to a reference potential via a switch at a given switching

frequency by adjusting the switching frequency to substantially 27 MHz.

Claim 14 (amended). A method of cleaning a surface of an article having a metallic base body, the method which comprises:

generating a plasma with electrically positively charged ions, accelerating the ions towards the article, and bringing ions into contact with the base body for cleaning the base body;

directing an electron beam onto the base body; and

controlling an outgoing flow of electrons coming into contact with the base body by connecting the base body to a reference potential via a switch at a given switching frequency; and

heating the article prior to cleaning.